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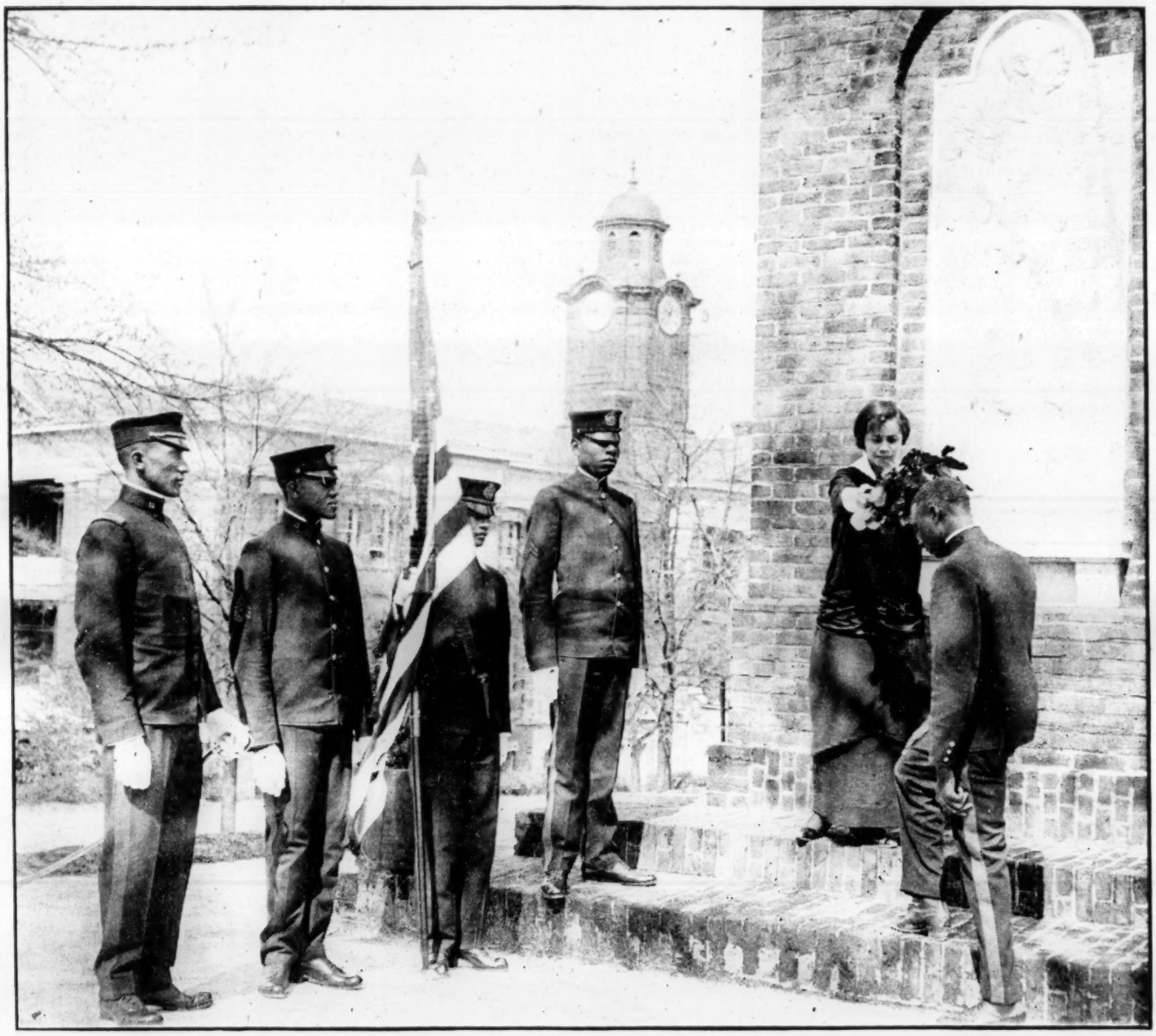
The Negro Farmer

Vol. 2 Tuskegee Institute, Ala., March 13, 1915 No. 4

Ought Colored Men to Enlist If the United States Enter the European War?

(See Editorial Page 6)



A Crown of Honor for the Colored Soldier

HISTORY—"From Revolutionary Times to Santiago and San Juan Hill You Have Been Loyal to the Stars and Stripes; and I Crown and Declare You as Patriotic as any Soldier who ever wore the uniform of this American Nation. Earnestly praying that 'the scourge of war may pass away' and that the Sword of the United States may never again be unsheathed, I bid you remember your glorious past whenever the Country called you; and if again she calls for MEN, I shall expect you to follow the Stars and Stripes so long as you claim this country for your home."

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Mr. Booker T. Washington, in his annual address to the National Negro Business League, at Muskogee, Okla., urged the farmers to

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers

Vol. 2, No. 4 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., MARCH 13, 1915 5c Per Copy. $1.00 Per Year

SUNFLOWERS FOR POULTRY

Sunflower seed is good for all farm animals, but chickens especially should be provided with it when it is so easily grown. During the hot days of summer the plants will furnish shade for all members of the flock and later the seed will contribute to the food supply. The seed forms one of the cheapest and best parts of the ration for laying hens, the oily consistency of the seeds rendering them especially adapted to regulating the bowels and promoting egg production.

How to Plant

Sunflowers are very easy to raise. They will grow wherever corn will, though they do best in good sandy loam. Plant about the middle of May. If not wanted for shade, plant the seed thinly in rows about three feet apart. Thin to about ten inches in the rows after the plants have obtained a good start. Cultivate the same as corn.

The rows should be a little closer than three feet if shade for the fowls is desired. A patch of sunflowers in the duck yard is particularly desirable if other shade is lacking. A feature worth considering is that sunflowers retain their shade-producing quality until bitten by frost, after which the leaves begin to drop.

Harvesting Sunflowers

When the flower is ripe, cut the stalks and let them lie two or three days to dry out. Then cut off the heads and store them away. Birds, especially sparrows, are very fond of sunflower seed and if the stalks are left standing until the seeds are dry the birds will extract a goodly portion of them in a few days. The heads should always be thoroughly dried out before they are stored for the winter. When thoroughly dry the fowls can harvest the seeds themselves. Simply throw out the whole heads and the fowls will soon be busy at work.

The seeds combine both medicinal and condimental qualities. I do not know whether a flock could get along on an exclusive diet of the seeds or not, but it is certain that best results are secured by feeding them in limited quantities in connection with other grains. Horses and cattle can be given about a pint of the seeds twice a week with good results.

Sunflowers yield at the average of from twenty to thirty bushels per acre, though much larger yields than this have been secured under favorable conditions. When large yields are desired large heads must be secured, and therefore the plants should not be crowded. As most people plant them as much for the shade which they furnish as for the seeds, it is seldom that extra large yields are secured.—W. F. P., in Successful Farming.

UTICA INSTITUTE FARMERS' CONFERENCE

The Eighth Annual Farmers' Conference, held at this institution on the 27th and 28th, was as usual a success.

The afternoon train on the 27th brought visitors from Jackson and neighboring towns, and, considering the impassable condition of the roads, the attendance from the surrounding country, on the following day, could easily be considered the best we have ever had.

Everyone was enthusiastic and sat through the long session patiently, listening to the stories of progress and failure, as related by the farmers and the appropriate addresses of the teachers.

The committee on nomination of officers, consisting of Rev. R. D. Morrison, Miss C. J. Lee, Dr. James Peters and Mr. Isaiah Marshall, suggested the following for officers for the opening year:

Wm. H. Holtzclaw, President; Prof. Z. T. Hubert, Vice-President; Miss C. J. Lee, Corresponding Secretary; F. G. Smith, Recording Secretary.

The principal addresses were delivered by two white vsitors.

The first of these was by Mr. S. M. Yates, an agricultural demonstrator of the United States Government. His advice as to the preparation, and care of land, and the raising of various grains in this section was of tremendous value. The last speaker was Mr. J. M. Rigby, a representative of the department of the I. C. Railroad, which has for its object the development of farming land. He addressed us in a way that not only proved his acquaintance with the Negro and his problems, but gave us such advice as only a true Southerner can give.

At the close of Thursday's session, the visitors, accompanied by the teachers and led by the band, filed into the dining room to enjoy the barbecued pork and beef, which the trustees had prepared for them.

Everything considered, the conference just closed has in every way come up to the standard, set for it by the organization in past years.—Utica News.

MELONS PROFITABLE SIDE LINE

A small watermelon or cantaloup patch as a side line on a cotton farm will often prove profitable if a good near by local market can be had. Of course the demand on local markets is limited, but many people have built up a steady trade in this product on their local market. A man who has done remarkably well along this line is John S. Covington of Richmond County, N. C. He is only about two miles out from Rockingham and he makes watermelons very profitable on a small scale as a side line on his cotton farm.

In discussing his methods of growing these melons, he said: "I pick out a good sandy loam soil for watermelons, and break it 12 inches deep in the winter, around December or January, and let land lie in this shape until planting time. I usually select a piece of land that was in cotton the past year, and the stalks are thoroughly cut with a stalk cutter before the land is plowed. This land selected usually yields a bale and a half or more of cotton per acre.

In growing my last year's crop, I laid off the rows with a middle burster with two mules hitched to it. Of course, as said above, this land was broken 12 inches deep in winter, three or four months before the rows were laid off. I laid off the rows 10 feet apart. In the bottom of this furrow I put 800 pounds per acre of 8-4-5 fertilizer; then I listed back on this furrow a flat bed with one-horse plow, throwing four furrows.

I did not make hills at all, but just merely planted the seed 10 feet apart in the drill, this making the hills 10 feet apart each way. I put five or six seed to the hill, using Tom Watson and Kleckley's Sweet. As soon as the little plants were up, I went over them with a hoe, cutting out any weeds and grass that might have come up and stirring the soil around them. The first regular cultivation was given with a spike-tooth harrow.

Just as the plants began to run, they were thinned down to one plant to the hill. They were cultivated only three times, and at the last cultivation I sowed cowpeas broadcast.

I make quite a nice little sum with cantaloups as a side line on my cotton land. I prepare the land the same as for watermelons. I put light applications of manure in the drills and lay off the rows five feet apart and plant the seed four feet apart in the drill.

I market locally mostly. Sometimes I ship a few cantaloups, but they are to near by markets and not those far away. My first cantaloups last year were marketed June 15th, and the first watermelons late in June. The past year I averaged $2 a crate for all the cantaloups I grew. Of course it will not do to grow too many watermelons and cantaloups, especially when depending on the local market. I grew last year about two acres in cantaloups and eight in watermelons and made good money on them. They brought me on an average $100 per acre, both for the cantaloups and the watermelons.

At the last cultivation of the cantaloups I sowed cowpeas as I did in the watermelons.

The ground used for these crops is real rich and well fertilized and produces cowpea hay to perfection, and produces one to one and one-half tons of cured hay per acre after the melons are harvested. This gives me $20 to $30 per acre for hay, and very often this is more than made clear per acre on the average cotton farm. Of course I used this hay for feeding purposes, but I could get for it at the rate of $20 to $30 per acre if sold right here on my local market."—Southern Farming.

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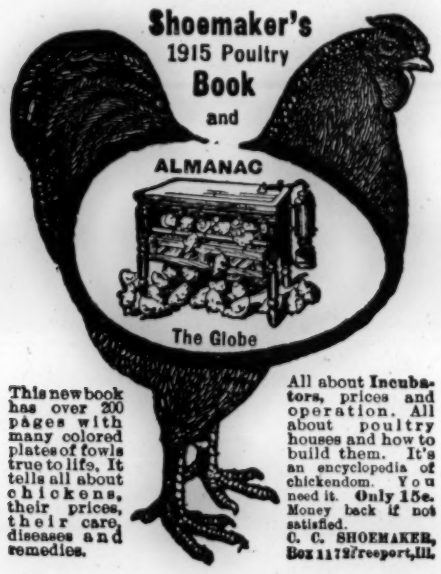
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A STUDENT'S IMPRESSION OF THE NEGRO FARMER

Tuskegee Inst., Ala., Mar. 5, 1915.

Mr. Isaac Fisher,
Editor of The Negro Farmer,
Tuskegee Inst., Ala.

Dear Sir:

That which I am about to write you may, at first sight, appear to be amusingly practical, if I may use such a term; but an afterthought would certainly prove it to be more practical than amusing. It seems to me to show how deep set in the minds of thoughtful people and students the value of the journal, of which you are the editor, is becoming.

A few weeks ago I gave an examination to my students. One of the questions was: "Give some definite reasons or facts which will explain why the Negro farmers of the South are suffering so greatly as a result of the present European War? How might these conditions have been avoided?"

One answer was as follows: "The reason why the Negro farmer of the South is suffering so greatly as a result of the present European War is because they failed to subscribe for and read such valuable farm journals as the Negro Farmer, the Progressive Farmer, or some other good farm paper. Had they read the Negro Farmer they would have learned the value of diversifying their farms. That is, they would not have planted an all-cotton crop, but would have planted other things; things that they could eat. This would have relieved the present conditions and the Negro farmers of the South would be much happier than they are at present. They would now have something to eat instead of having a great deal of cotton which will not bring them even enough money to pay them for having raised it. They might have avoided these hard times by reading and profiting by the advice given by these papers."

The diction and the grammar of this answer have been somewhat improved, the student being a B Middle student, but the spirit and contents of the answer are about the same as the student wrote it. I don't know just how you may be inclined to take this information, but as for me it certainly "spells good" for your paper. It seems to me that when the people whom we are now trying to make serviceable to the community, the country and above all to themselves, can feel and express such sentiments, we have just about reached the right spot, to produce practicable agricultural and social advancement. Your paper, as much as any other edited for the Negro, seems to have this for its objective, and is performing its mission admirably.

Trusting that what I have said about the inclination of the thoughts of the younger generation concerning your paper will act as an encouragment to you in your unselfish efforts, I am

Yours truly,
George W. A. Scott,

Teacher of Commercial and Industrial Geography, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

KEEP BUSY

Above all things during the "tightness" of the times, do not allow yourselves to become idle, but keep busy. Nothing keeps a man out of mischief, makes him cheerful and hopeful like a good conscience and constant employment. Do something all the time.—Negro Farmer, Tuskegee, Ala.

On the other hand the way of the transgressor sometimes seems pretty smooth.—Editor, The Winged Messenger.

Yes, Brother Ayres, The Negro Farmer knows it; and the Lord knows it; for in the thirty-seventh chapter of the Psalms, He, speaking through David, told all of the impatient souls to "Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity * * * Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way. * * * For evil doers shall be cut off."

Can't you trust him my brother? He is slow, but every little while He buckles His armor on and rides gloriously through the earth.

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WOMAN'S COLUMN

VARIETY IN PLAIN LIVING

The bulletin on "The Planning of Meals," by Isabel Bevier, issued by the University of Illinois, gives twelve menus, using, each time, four staple foods—beef, potatoes, cabbage and apples. These staples are cooked differently in each menu.

1. Porterhouse steak, mashed potatoes, cabbage salad with nuts, baking powder biscuit, apple pie, coffee.
2. Tongue, cabbage and potato salad, popovers, apple turnovers with cream, tea.
3. Roast ribs of beef, baked potatoes, cabbage salad (sour cream dressing), plain bread, baked apples with cream, coffee.
4. Creamed dried beef, stuffed potatoes, creamed cabbage with peppers, graham muffins, brown Betty with cream, coffee.
5. Shepherd's pie, creamed cabbage, white muffins, apple souffle with whipped cream, cocoa.
6. Corned beef, boiled potatoes, boiled cabbage, butter rolls, apple pudding, coffee.
7. Short-ribs, French fried potatoes, steamed cabbage, apple dumplings and cream, graham gems, coffee.
8. Rolled stuffed steak, browned potatoes, hot slaw, baked apples, cream, jelly, nuts, coffee.
9. Hamburg steak, riced potatoes, escalloped cabbage, graham bread, apple tapioca, coffee.
10. Corned beef hash, potatoes with butter and parsley, cabbage au gratin, entire wheat muffins, Dutch apple cake, lemon sauce, tea.
11. Beef loaf, creamed potatoes, cold slaw, nut bread, Dutch apple cake with cream, coffee.
12. Pan broiled flank steak, escalloped potatoes, fried cabbage, French rolls, apple shortcake and cream, cocoa.—Wallace's Farmer.

EXTERMINATION OF MITES

Mites are not only a source of great annoyance to the fowls, but they greatly reduce the egg production and hinder the growth and proper development of the growing chicks.

There are many ways to destroy the mites, one of the simplest of which is the use of coal ashes in roosts and coops. The best way to apply the ashes is to use a coarse sieve. By this means there will be no cinders in the droppings. The best result of the sifting is that the fine dust of the ashes will rise and enter every crack and crevice, and will settle on every inch of surface within the building, leaving no possible hiding place for the mites. The dust covers the mites and soon smothers them to death, and if the sifting is repeated every week or two there will soon be no mites.

Before sifting the first time turn the perches upside down and pour kerosene over them. This will destroy the mites on the under side of the perches and the dust will stick to them more easily also.

Before sifting the ashes into the coops of growing chicks, remove the bottoms of the coops (if you have board bottoms, which all should have) and give them and the inside of the coops the kerosene treatment. Then sift ashes in the coops and on the ground where the coops are to set, replace the bottoms, put the coops back and no mites will bother the chicks. Repeat the operation every week or two.

The droppings pulverize in the ashes, the ammonia is absorbed and retained, making a fine fertilizer for the garden. Also the ashes act as a deodorizer and there will be no foul odors.—P. M., in Successful Farming.

SOME DON'TS FOR NEW TRUCKERS

In view of the present cotton situation, the principal discussion at the Georgia Horticultural Society Meeting, which was held last week at Athens, was in regard to truck and trucking. Of the many topics discussed, one of the most intensely interesting was that by H. G. Hastings, who brought out many don'ts for the new trucker.

Don't think about going into trucking if you expect to give your vegetable crops the same kind of treatment that is ordinarily given cotton or corn.

Don't go into trucking if you expect to be sparing of manure or commercial fertilizer, or both. The successful truck grower is the one who puts on one or two acres as much fertilizer or manure as is usually put on a whole one-horse cotton farm.

Don't go into trucking if not familiar with it, with the expectation of making a marked success from the start.

Don't fool yourself into believing that you can get away with a dishonest, careless, cheating sort of a false pack, or even one that is anyway misleading. If your pack is not honest and right quality, the city dump cart is far more apt to be the recipient of your product than either the retailer or the housewife.

Don't ship everything that the plants on your acres have produced. An inferior product, undersized, ill-assorted, will seldom bring transportation charges.

There is plenty of room in Georgia and other states of the South for new truckers, both for local markets and shipments, but they must above all things remember that if they are to succeed they must "play fair," not only to their land and to their crops, but to the produce merchant and the ultimate consumer as well.—Southern Farming.

THE HEAD OF THE CORNER

The signs of the times indicate that with the awakening sense of the value of agriculture, now becoming widespread, farming, often despised, often forsaken, often abused, will yet lead all occupations in dignity as well as economic value, so that "the stone which the builders rejected (shall become) the head of the corner."

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published Every Other Week, in The Negro Farmer Building, Greenwood, by THE NEGRO FARMER PUBLISHING CO.

ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter, February 14, 1914, at the Post Office at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, under the Act of March 8, 1879.

Subscription Price:

Per copy.....5 cents
Per year, post-paid.....$1.00
Six months..... .50
Three months..... .40
Foreign subscriptions, per year..... 2.25

How to Remit:

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Saturday, March 13, 1915

MEMBER NATIONAL NEGRO PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Editor's Page

PATRIOTISM OR ———: WHICH SHALL IT BE?

In Case of War, What Must the American Negro Do?

If I continue answering letters from our subscribers—letters which ask about matters of grave import to the American Negro, I shall very often find myself in "deep water." But this is no excuse for refusing to give my opinions, even though they are of no value. I was certain that this question was coming—

A Sober Question

"In case the United States are drawn into the European war, do you think colored men should enlist? During peace times, the United States care nothing for us; and we receive worse treatment than any other race in this country. Wouldn't it be better for us to stay out of it and refuse to fight for a country which has neither love nor place for us?"

A Sober Answer, Let it Be Hoped

I realize that my answer is nothing more than my answer. I am neither a seer nor oracle of wisdom. I hold no commission empowering me to say the last word on matters affecting the welfare of some ten millions of my countrymen. Nor am I the keeper of any man's conscience save my own.

Other thoughtful men with patriotism every whit as deep as my own have already passed on the subject and have stated with emphasis that colored men should "keep out," and thereby register the race's protest against the proscriptions which it endures.

A Right Common to All

My hat is off to these and I grant them the right to see the matter in that light. But I shall ask them to do me the justice—the reciprocal justice—of granting to me the same right—the right to see the matter according to my own vision. This is due to them and it is due to me.

Climbing to Where I Can See Well

When you discuss your personal affairs—when you map out a course of conduct for your own life, you may do so where you are and with very little care as to the future, present, or past; because one person is but an atom in the structure of the universe about him and his failures are not usually nation-wide in their consequences. But when one tries to map out a course for a race he must do what the thoughtless traveler, lost in the heart of the woods, never does, but which an experienced woodsman will do on the first opportunity—that is, climb a tall tree and see—not guess—which is the proper course to take. Let me, then, climb to a point where I can get better vision.

How High to Climb

I must climb high enough so that the thick underbrush of race proscriptions, of prejudices, of race limitations, of legislation against the class to which I belong, of restricted opportunities, of insults, of humiliations, etc., may not obscure my view as they will if I stay down among them; for I need to see objects and results that are far from the time and place which surround me now.

A Look Backward

Looking backward—away back to the spot on Boston Commons where a Negro —Crispus Attucks—was the earliest to shed his blood for American liberty, I get a point from which to count the black patriots slain. I see 5,000 Negroes "dead on the field of honor" in the Revolutionary War; I hear General Jackson say to the black boys in blue in 1812—"I expected much from you. * * * But you have surpassed all my hopes." I see a list of sable heroes marching against Mexico; and later, when, amid the shot and shell and carnage and ruin and misery of the terrible Civil War, God purged the nation of slavery, I see them still—black men —with hearts that did not quail, striving to defend this Union which had given them, in fullest measure, nothing but the wormwood and gall of physical chains. And then, later still, in Cuba, at Santiago, and charging up the heights of San Juan Hill, I see them marching, marching, marching, while the bands played, "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," and the world applauded their valor.

And when I turn to history and ask if the black boys—yes, if my race—have ever sulked in their tents when the country called them, there is but one answer—"They have ever been ready to die in defense of the Stars and Stripes."

So far, the Negro's record as a patriot, as one who will lay down his life for this country, is CLEAN! Did you hear? His record as a patriot is clean. Thank God for that!

The Future—Suppose He Refuses to Answer the Next Call?

If the Negro refuses to answer the next call of his country, I see harm to his interests as a result. He has been charged with many crimes. He has been called many things besides "a child of God," but blessed be our Father, the Negro has not yet been called a man afraid and unwilling to die for his country.

On the day when the colored man refuses to discharge the full duty of a citizen, every person who wishes harm to our race, will laugh with glee. Webster defines a patriot as "one who loves his country and zealously supports its authority and interests." Thus far we have measured up to the definition; but woe is ours if we fail now.

Thrice Is He Armed

"Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just," saith the Scriptures.

Many oppressive measures have been directed against us on the ground of our race. But these will not—can not stand forever, because the fact of race is no just ground for oppression; but if in any State, if in the Congress of the United States any man can rise and truthfully say—"The Negro failed the nation in its time of need, therefore, let us visit punishment upon him," what defense can we or our friends offer?

At the same time, when we plead for fairness, we are mightily fortified when we can look the rulers of our land in the face and say—"Whenever the nation has called, we have been swift to answer—we have not failed you once."

Just Another Thought

I am opposed to wars and bloodshed. I hope that the American sword has been drawn for the last time; but if this is not to be, I want my race to have part in any struggles which are for the national good. History shows that those who fight for fatherland are never permanently barred from consideration by their country. The Negro must not permit his grievances to shut him out from a lawful claim to a part in the nation's weal.

The Decision

America is the land of our birth—she must have our loyalty—the Stars and Stripes wave over us all—we cannot claim to be patriots if we do not defend them. And we do love the United States—not her injustices to our race, but that which is best in her institutions. We defend her flag, not for the crimes against us which it shelters and protects, but the best in our government of which it is a sign.

Since we are patriots, we must answer our country when she calls and follow her flag, reserving for times of peace our protests against all that is oppressive and unjust.

—ISAAC FISHER.

SORGHUM AS A ROUGHAGE FEED

The sorghum used as forage or for hay is the same kind that is used for syrup making, the seed being sold by seedsmen or local seed dealers at prices varying from two and one-half cents per pound upwards, and it takes fifty pounds to make a bushel.

Sorghum belongs to the family of kafir, millets, etc., and is a great drought resister, heat resister, and in fact is one of the extremely hardy plants, and that is the reason that it makes a good crop of hay almost regardless of seasons.

In central sections it may be sown at any time from early in April to latter June and make a hay crop. It may be sown with a wheat or grain drill or broadcast and harrowed. The quantity of seed per acre varies from one bushel for thin soil to one and one-half for fertile soils, and while a good seed-bed is always preferable, we have sown it in a very poor seed-bed and yet obtained a good crop of hay.

After it is sown it requires no attention until its heads begin to ripen, when it should be cut with a mower; however, it sometimes blows down and has to be cut one way. The curing in the swath may be from five days to fifteen days, depending on the weather and the time of year, as the curing of the stalky portion takes place in the shock. We usually rake our sorghum with a steel sulky self-dump rake, but a heavy piece of sorghum taxes a good rake's capacity. You need not worry about the rain while it is in the swath, and it does not hurt it much if it rains on it while it is in the windrow, but it should dry out some before shocking.

We have found that it is a crop very little affected by weather conditions, either while growing or after cut, and the shocks may be left standing out all winter and drawn in and fed as needed. If you wish to have the hay handier to the barn it may be stacked after it has stood in the shock a month or more.

Some stock refuse to eat it, and have to become accustomed to its taste, but most of our stock relish it, and mules go wild for it. Being rich in sugar it is a good fat producer. When planted early it may be cut in July or August and fed green, after which it will sprout and another crop can be cut.

We would not advise to feed sorghum alone, but feed it once a day and use hay or other roughage for the other feeds. It is hard to estimate how many tons yield per acre may be expected, as the hay is extremely heavy at the time of shocking, gradually losing its moisture; however a fair yield may be considered to run from two to six tons per acre, and we consider it a cheaper and better feed than fodder.

Small feed lots or other odd patches can be utilized for the growing of sorghum hay that might otherwise grow up to weeds, and a man needs a lot of stock to clean up over three acres of sorghum when fed once a day. Sorghum is indeed a poor man's crop, and I have known wealthy farmers to make money growing and feeding it as well. We usually put out a patch so that if something happens to our hay crops we will have something good to fall back on.—O. R. A., Ind., in Successful Farming.

POP CORN AND THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

The United States Department of Agriculture, in a recent bulletin, says that fewer nickels would be spent for less wholesome knick-knacks if a supply of pop corn and a popper were kept in homes.

A more delicious and wholesome confection than pop corn cannot be found. Daintiness and nutritiousness—a happy combination. Just think. You can eat pop corn until your desire is satisfied, and it will not harm you.

As a food pop corn has considerable value; it is superior to many of the breakfast foods now on the market. That statement comes from Uncle Sam's food specialists. Need any more be said of pop corn as a food?

For breakfast, popped corn is delicious with milk or cream. Add sugar if desired. In this an agreeable surprise awaits you. The parched unpopped kernels, when ground like coffee, make a nice breakfast food with milk or cream and sugar. Or the ground kernels may be boiled and served like oatmeal.

These suggestions will be welcomed as a help in solving the high-cost-of-living problem. Pop corn in itself is very reasonable in price. A fair idea of its economy may be had when it is considered that it pops from 15 to 20 times its original bulk. Be sure to get good corn. The best is the cheapest, and better results will be obtained.—The Illinois Retail Merchants' Journal.

C. P. Hartley, the corn expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, says: "New corn may be used for popping as soon as it has dried out sufficiently. If old pop corn will not pop on account of having become too dry, the popping quality may be somewhat restored by moistening or sprinkling with water before popping. If very dry it should be soaked in water for awhile and then spread out to dry a few days before using: or the corn may be put in a shaded place out of doors for a time where it can absorb moisture from the open air. Pop corn usually pops best when it contains about 12 per cent. of moisture."—Fruit and Produce Marketer.

EATEN UP WITH ZEAL FOR THIS PAPER

Trenton, Tenn., Feb. 1, 1915.

To The Publishing Co.,
Tuskegee, Inst., Ala.

Gentlemen:

Please allow me space in The Negro Farmer to speak a few good words about the paper. I have been taking every Negro paper published, but this is the best paper that I have even seen for the farmer. Every Negro in the state should take this Negro Farm paper. Every time you get a new one you will see something new. So just say I am going to take it some way. If I can't take it one year, I will take it six months; if I can't take it six months, I will take it for three months; and if I can't take it three months, why then I will take a single copy for 5 cents. Just make up in your mind that you must have it. If you will ever read one, you will want to read another.

Yours truly,

Jno. Christmas.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

Colored Heroes of the Farm

PORK AND PEANUT PROFITS

Methods Followed on One Oklahoma Farm

By Victor H. Schffelmayer in The Oklahoma Farmer

Peanuts and hogs brought independence to Joseph Richard Smith, an enterprising colored farmer who settled on a blackjack ridge near Oklahoma City during the rush of 1889 with just $5.00 in his pocket. Today he is worth $10,000. For 26 years, without fail, Smith has been raising Spanish peanuts, one year harvesting 125 bushels an acre, and averaging 30 bushels to an acre during the drought of 1914.

When the price of peanuts is above 60 cents, Smith sells them on the open market, but when they bring less than 60 cents, he lets the hogs harvest the crop. In this way, he says, the nuts easily make him a profit of $1.00 a bushel and more.

Smith has demonstrated beyond dispute that peanuts can be grown year after year under even the most trying conditions on the blackjack hills of Oklahoma. These hills are naturally poor, sandy lands, with a liberal sprinkling of rock. Stunted oaks grow there. This soil is ideal for the Spanish peanut, which does not yield so heavily on richer land. The blackjack hills will scarcely mature corn or even the grain sorghums without fertilizer, but no fertilizer is needed for peanuts.

One Trial of Cotton Plenty

In all the 26 years since he grubbed the first blackjack root off his hill farm, Smith just once raised a cotton crop. He promptly quit cotton when he found at the end of a day's hard work that he had picked only 100 pounds of lint instead of the coveted 200.

"Cotton," says Smith, "keeps a man from being a farmer. It takes the kids out o' school So we quit cotton the first year and have never raised any since."

Last year Smith raised seven acres of Spanish peanuts. The drought cut down the yield to about 30 bushels an acre. The price dropped to between 50 and 60 cents and Smith decided to feed the nuts to his hogs. He had three brood sows and 18 pigs. There were nine other hogs which averaged about 100 pounds when started on the peanuts. In November the herd was turned into the peanut field. The hogs were kept in the field seven weeks and at that time the largest weighed more than 300 pounds and the average was 280 pounds for the herd. This made a total of 7,500 pounds for the herd and the price of eight cents a pound, yielded an income of $600. The hogs were fattened chiefly on peanuts, very little corn being used.

Peanuts a Paying Crop

Smith told the writer that he can make more money from an acre of Spanish peanuts than his neighbors do from five acres of corn. He knows whereof he speaks. He has patiently planted corn year after year only to find it fails because of lack of moisture at the proper time. However, he has had success with kafir and feterita, which he grows for ensilage. He has blasted a pit of silo out of the solid rock on his farm, costing him only the price of a keg of powder and "elbow grease." Silage is fed to his milk cows and work mules along with peanut hay. Smith always raises several acres of peanut hay, nuts and all, for his work stock. He says there is no better feed to be had in Oklahoma.

In all the years he has farmed in Oklahoma, except the first year, Smith has not been compelled to buy feed for his animals. He raises an average of 10 acres of kafir or feterita a year, yielding from three to seven tons of ensilage an acre or from 15 to 40 bushels of grain. In 1914 he raised 10 acres of spring oats, yielding two tons of hay an acre. Twenty acres of corn yielded less than 10 bushels an acre. The highest yield of corn in the 26 years was 35 bushels an acre, highly fertilized. Twelve acres of millet last year made an average of three-fourths of a ton an acre. Smith has raised Irish potatoes by the carload and in years past realized as high as $1.10 a bushel. In 1911 he quit the potato business because he lost his seed in the dry fall. His best yields averaged about 75 bushels an acre on blackjack land without fertilizer.

"I have tried every kind of peanut, but the Spanish pays best," says Smith. "One year I raised 135 bushels of Virginia peanuts on one acre, but you can't do that again for five years, maybe. I have tried the Tennessee reds, too, but when I weighed them out with the Spanish variety, they lacked weight badly. They make too much hull and not enough nuts."

Hand Hoeing Pays

On the Smith farm Spanish peanuts are planted usually on land which has been in winter oats pasture. The ground is double disced late in February or early in March and the nuts are planted May 1st. Smith uses a Moline drill, dropping whole nuts, and plants them at the rate of a bushel and a peck an acre, in rows three feet apart and six inches apart in the row. The plants are cultivated three times with a spring tooth cultivator, after which they are hoed by hand and ridged up slightly. The beds are cultivated flat until hoeing time. The nuts are dug with a potato digger, which works effectively if properly adjusted.

Two acres of Spanish peanuts last year received two extra hoeings on the Smith farm and yielded an average of 51 bushels an acre, whereas the rest of the field only yielded 30 bushels an acre. Damaged seed prevented a full stand. Moles prove troublesome in certain years, but Smith and his children open the mole hills and wait for the vermin to come into the open, which they usually do in a few minutes, and shoot them. They have practically rid their peanut fields of moles and gophers in this manner.

For lack of a peanut thrasher the Smith family picks the nuts by hand. This results in a clean assortment which always commands slightly more than the market price.

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This year, because of the increased interest in peanuts, Smith will plant about 20 acres. He has several brood sows with pigs to whom he will feed the nuts should the market price fail to be attractive. In any event, at least 10 acres will be harvested by the hogs no matter what price the nuts bring, as Smith says there is no other feed which makes as much pork so cheaply and quickly.

The Smiths live in a neat stone house which they erected with their own hands from surface stone picked up on the farm. A stone barn was similarly constructed. The premises are among the best kept in Oklahoma County, and a credit to their enterprising owners.

TWO COLUMBIAS PRAISE THE NEGRO FARMER

From British Columbia (Port Kells)
February 15, 1915.

Now Brother Fisher, I must say that your editorials are all good. In the paper of December, 1914—"Making the Colored Lawbreaker Behave Himself," and January 16, 1915—"Wait for the Life Line," was very good; and January 2, 1915—"A Great Profession for Women," all was very good, and I thank God for such men as yourself.

* * * * * *

Ever yours,
F. R. Graham.

From "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean."

(The Negro Farmer always sends a letter of acknowledgment and thanks to new subscribers. Note comment below.—Editor.)

471 7th Ave., New York City.
The Negro Farmer,
Tuskegee Inst., Ala.
Gentlemen:

Yours of 22nd to hand. Your paper's appearance is all the thanks that are due to a subscriber. So you need not think one ought to get a letter thanking them. They should thank you personally for getting out such a newsy paper. I think it is a credit to the race and should be emulated by a good many others.

I am very truly yours,
Wm. E. Clipper,
Proprietor The Clipper Laundry.

R. F. D. 1, Box 27,
Elmore, Ala., Feb. 1, 1915.
The Negro Farmer Publishing Co.:

Dear Sirs—I have been reading your paper for about a year now, and I read no paper that I get as much out of as I do The Negro Farmer.

Yours truly,
Wm. M. Shannon.

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

"Big Words" and Events Explained

About Children

Marthaville, La., Feb. 26, 1915.
The Negro Farmer:

Gentlemen:—I have learnt how to raise chickens, hogs, geese, ducks and turkeys from The Negro Farmer. I have learnt how to live at home from The Negro Farmer, now please, Mr. Editor, give me some of your ideas on raising children.

Yours truly,
BOLEY FISHER.

My dear good man, I am no authority on raising children; but I will send you to the world's greatest encyclopedia—the Bible—for instructions which will tell you all you wish to know.

For the Duty of Parents

Read—

Deut. 32:46; Ps. 78:5, 6; Prov. 13:22; 19:18; 22:6; 23:13, 14; 29:15; Isa. 38:19; Joel 1:3; Matt. 10:37; Luke 11:11-13; 2 Cor. 12:14; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12; 5:8; Titus 1:6; 2:4.

For General Instruction

Read—

Deut. 6:6; 11:19, 20; 31:12; Ps. 34:11; 78:1-8; Prov. 22:6; Isa. 28:9; Joel 1:3; Acts 22:3.

For Commands to All Children

Read—

Exodus 20:12; Matt. 15:4; Eph. 6:1, 2; Lev. 19:3, 32; Ps. 119:9; 148:12; Prov. 1:8; 3:1; 4:1-4, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22; 5:1; 6:20-25; 8:32, 33; 23rd, 22nd, 26th chapters; 27:11; Ec. 12:1; Lam. 3:27; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20; 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:22; Titus 2:6.

For Commandments to Young Men

Read—

Proverbs 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, and 13th chapters; Prov. 15:5; 17:2; 19:13, 26, 27; 23:15-35; 24; 28:7; 29:3; Jer. 22:18-21; Matt. 19:16-22; Luke 15:11-32; 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 John 2:13-17.

For Young Women

Read—

Proverbs 31:10-31; 11:16, 22; 12:4; Prov. 19:13, 14; 21:9, 19; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 3:11; 5:1-16; Titus 2:3-5.

—The Editor.

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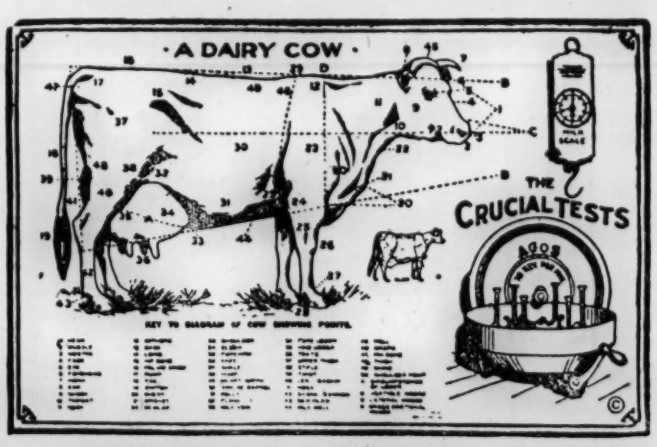

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WHEN TO BREED GILTS

Gilts should be mature before being bred. They will make better brood sows, raise larger, stronger, more thrifty pigs, suckle them better and will have more sense and care for them better. Continual breeding of sows too young in a few generations reduces the vitality and thrift amazingly.

The young sow that raises a spring litter should not be allowed to raise a fall litter the first year. Sows two years old are young enough to try this and even then the second litter is almost always unsatisfactory unless the sow has been fed very well and had thirty to fifty days rest in which to recuperate, before bred the second time. Usually the second litter of the two-litter-a-year sow is only about one-half to two-thirds as good as her first litter. Why? It is not the fault of the sow but because she has not regained her vitality sufficiently to do well the second time. This is simply a matter that cannot be crowded. Time must be given, and hurrying will produce bad results and a loss as sure as you do it. To do well, it is imperative that our hogs have a great amount of constitutional vitality and vigor.—J. W., in Successful Farming.

IRISH POTATOES AND CORN OR COTTON

A number of successful Irish potato growers use this vegetable for a companion crop. That is, they plant the potato in rows far enough apart so that between each two rows of potatoes a row of corn or cotton can be planted. When the potato crop is harvested, the cotton or corn has received good cultivation and fertilization and should be made a very cheap crop. The plan is to make the potatoes pay for the preparation, fertilization and first cultivation of the cotton or corn.

A difficulty facing the potato grower this year is the scarcity of potash. This is a very essential element for Irish potato growing and every effort should be made to supply the crop with at least a mixture containing four per cent.—Southern Fruit Grower.

THE VALUE OF A BAKED POTATO

This year when potatoes are cheap, it is not a bad thing to recall that one pound of baked potato is equivalent in total nutritive value to any one of the following:

1 1-5 pounds of boiled potato.
5⅓ ounces of boiled beef.
1 pound of chicken.
1⅓ pounds of codfish.
2¼ pints of oysters (solids).
4 pints of clams (in shells).
4½ pints of beef juice.
10 pints bouillon or beef tea.
1½ pints of whole milk .
3 pints of skimmed milk.
8 eggs.
9 ounces baked beans.
7 ounces bread.
1¼ pints of oatmeal or corn meal mush.
1 1-3 pints hominy (cooked).
1 pint boiled rice.
1 pound of bananas.
2 pounds parsnips (cooked).
1 pound green peas (cooked).
3 pounds beets (cooked).
4 pounds boiled cabbage.
4 pounds radishes.
5 pounds tomatoes.
5 pounds turnips (cooked).
6½ pounds cucumbers.

—Southern Farming.

IRISH POTATOES FOR EARY MARKET

Deep, fertile soil that has the capacity for retaining the moisture is the first essential for successful production of Irish potatoes. Unless such a soil can be had it is extremely hazardous to try to grow this vegetable. Since stable manure increases the injury from scab, it should be applied in a well rotten state and some time before the potatoes are planted. Lime should not be used the same year that the crop is to be grown.

To those who contemplate planting Irish potatoes this spring the following will be helpful:

1. Prepare the land as soon as possible by breaking with a two-horse plow, going from one-half to an inch deeper than the soil was plowed last year. If the land is deficient in humus, scatter stable manure broadcast.

2. Use northern grown seed of either Red Bliss or Irish Cobbler variety.

3. Treat potatoes for scab by soaking the seed for one hour in a solution of Formalin, —1 pint to 30 gallons of water.

4. Cut the potatoes so as to have two eyes to a piece. The size of the piece determines the strength of the young plant as it comes out of the ground, but too many eyes are not desired.

5. Begin cultivation before the potatoes come up and continue after every rain until the potatoes are about the size of walnuts. This cultivation should be made with a harrow before the potatoes come up and continued with a shallow cultivator afterwards. The object of cultivation is to keep down weeds and to conserve the moisture. It is very important. There is nothing to the theory that for each cultivation the potato will put on a new set of small potatoes.

6. Spray with arsenate of lead to prevent bugs, and Bordeaux mixture to prevent "Blight."—Southern Fruit Grower.

A LESSON ON PIGS

In this year's pig raising contest of the Boys' Pig Clubs of North Dakota, the average profits per litter, with pork at 6c, were:

For the Poland China.....$38.10
For the Duroc Jersey..... 42.26
For the Yorkshire..... 48.33
For the Chester White..... 34.30
For the Cross breed..... 26.38

The average profit of the 24 litters that stood highest was $61.04.

Corn, barley and oats were the main feeds used. Shorts, screenings, rye and speltz were also used. Nearly all used pasture, two-thirds of them fed considerable milk. The value given the foods were as follows: Corn, 49c per bushel; oats, 32c; barley, 45c; rye, 57c; bran and shorts, $19.00; screenings, $10.00; skim milk, 25c per cwt; grass pasture, $3.49 per acre.

W. E. VAPLON,
State Leader Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Colorado Agricultural College.

ONE CAN NOT STOP

There must be no halting to one's efforts and activities. Forward, ever, is the one and only command to be heeded. Never mind the discouragements—they belong to all lives. You go forward. To stop is to fall behind. Keep going.

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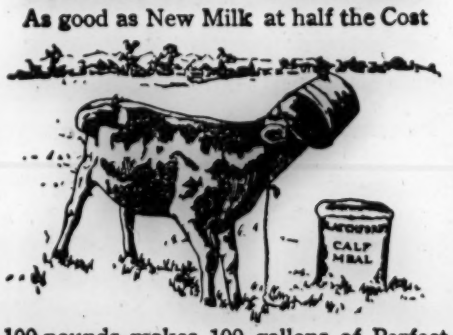

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Reaping a Harvest from the War

Advertisers, a Word!

Read this and see if You Belong in the List Below

Because of the fact that the European War has struck the Cotton-growing States such a stunning blow, all newspapers, farm papers and all who wish the South well are advising Southern farmers to grow less cotton and more food. As a result, the following dealers, if they are far-sighted, will reap a harvest from the War — DEALERS IN Garden Seed, Hogs, Chickens, Ducks Geese, Guineas, Cows, Hares, Orchard Plants, Sheep, Eggs, Mail-Order Goods that are Cheap in Price

THE NEGRO FARMER reaches that class of farmers who are interested in the articles above

An Advertisement in THIS Paper WILL PAY

Why Everybody Should Read

The Negro Farmer

For the Farmer

It is a standard, high grade Farm Journal, written in the simplest language.

For the Women on and off the Farm

It is a source of help in the home, garden, laundry, kitchen and on the poultry yard.

For Teachers

It is always full of supplementary matter especially suitable for the class-room. Several teachers in the Tuskegee Institute use the papers regularly in their classes.

For Colored Children

Its stories of how colored men and women are succeeding are said by many teachers to be the best of their kind to be found anywhere.

For Readers of Newspapers and Magazines

The Negro Farmer is a necessity. Its "Farmers' Dictionary" explains all public questions, fully, carefully and in an interesting manner.

For White Landowners Who Employ Colored Farmers

The Negro Farmer is a splendid investment if it is put into the hands of colored tenants and laborers.